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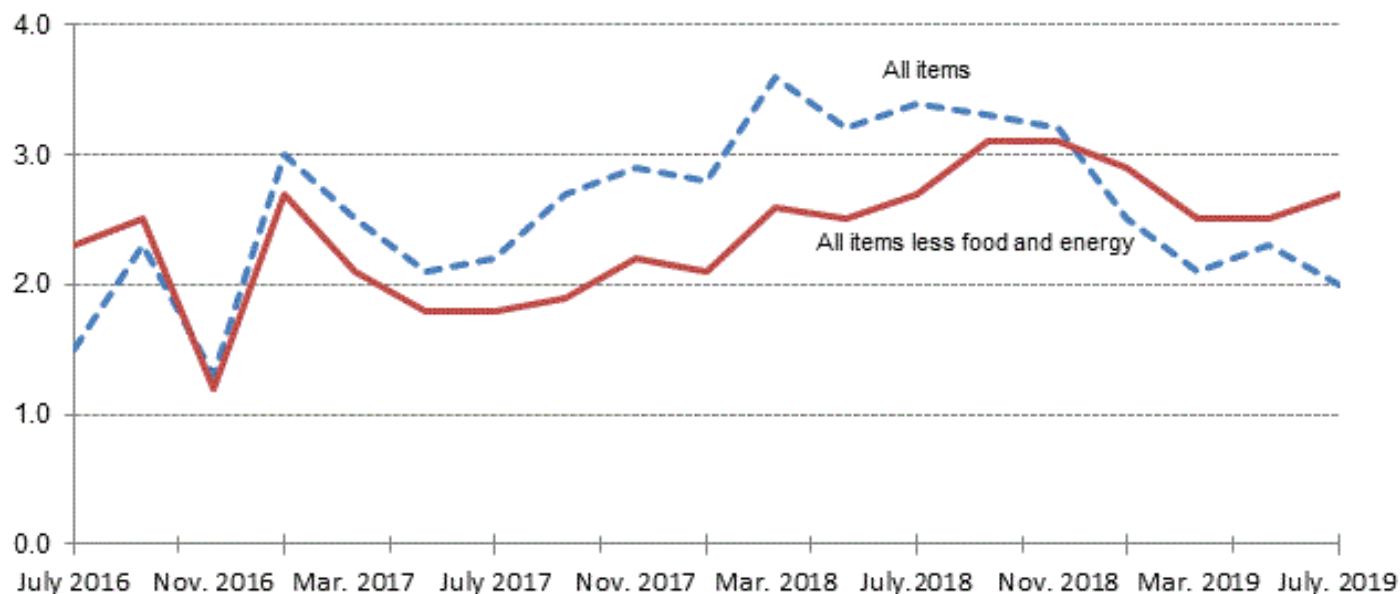
Consumer Price Index, Boston-Cambridge-Newton — July 2019

Area prices remained unchanged over two months; up 2.0 percent from a year ago

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Boston-Cambridge-Newton area remained unchanged in July, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that this was mainly attributable to higher prices within all items less food and energy, up 0.5 percent, and lower energy prices, down 4.7 percent, which primarily offset the increase. Lower food prices down 0.2 percent also offset the increase. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bimonthly changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Boston-Cambridge-Newton, July 2016 - July 2019

Percent



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Over the last 12 months, the Boston CPI-U rose 2.0 percent. The increase was largely attributable to higher prices within all items less food and energy up 2.7 percent.(See [chart 1.](#))

Food

Food prices decreased 0.2 percent since May, mainly due to lower food at home prices, down 0.9 percent. Higher food away from home prices, up 0.7 partially offset the decrease. Lower food at home prices were mainly driven by lower prices in nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials, and fruits and vegetables, down 3.5 percent and 1.9 percent, respectively.

Food prices increased 0.7 percent over the year, due to higher food away from home prices, up 2.0 percent. Partially offsetting this increase, were lower food at home or grocery store prices, down 0.2 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 4.7 percent over the two months, mainly driven by lower gasoline prices, down 4.4 percent. Lower prices in electricity and utility piped gas, down 4.5 percent and 7.1 percent respectively, also contributed to the decrease.

Energy prices were down 3.1 percent from a year ago, largely attributable to lower gasoline prices, down 6.3 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased from May (0.5 percent) mainly due to higher shelter costs, up 1.2 percent. Within shelter, higher local costs for lodging away from home, mainly contributed to the increase. To a lesser extent, higher costs for owners' equivalent rent of residences, up 0.4 percent also contributed to the increase. Lower apparel costs, down 5.2 percent partially offset the increase.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.7 percent, with higher shelter costs being the main driver of the increase, up 4.3 percent. Within shelter, higher costs for owners' equivalent rent of residences, up 4.1 percent and to a lesser extent, higher rent of primary residence, up 3.5 percent led the increase. Higher medical care costs, up 4.7 percent, also contributed to the overall increase.

CPI-W

In July, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 279.164. The CPI-W decreased 0.1 percent over two months and increased 1.8 percent over the year.

The September 2019 Consumer Price Index for Boston-Cambridge-Newton is scheduled to be released on Thursday, October 10, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 94 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.












































The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Boston-Cambridge-Newton, Mass.-N.H. Core Based Statistical Area covered in this release is comprised of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk Counties in Massachusetts; Rockingham, Strafford Counties in New Hampshire.














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Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Boston-Cambridge-Newton, Ma.-N.H. (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	May 2019	Jun. 2019	Jul. 2019	Jul. 2018	May 2019	Jun. 2019
All items		280.937		280.943	2.0	0.0	
All items (1967 = 100)		816.552		816.568			
Food and beverages		267.579		266.557	0.7	-0.4	
Food		269.182		268.511	0.7	-0.2	
Food at home		252.739	251.377	250.490	-0.2	-0.9	-0.4
Cereal and bakery products		294.265		293.263	0.2	-0.3	
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs		257.115		254.328	-0.3	-1.1	
Dairy and related products		288.302		288.100	3.8	-0.1	
Fruits and vegetables		327.179		320.883	-5.6	-1.9	
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)		167.415		161.517	-3.2	-3.5	
Other food at home		197.865		199.574	4.3	0.9	
Food away from home		297.931		300.065	2.0	0.7	
Alcoholic beverages		253.633		248.561	1.2	-2.0	
Housing		291.877		293.495	3.5	0.6	
Shelter		346.860	347.912	351.127	4.3	1.2	0.9
Rent of primary residence(2)		358.833	359.676	360.165	3.5	0.4	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2)(3)(4)		369.195	370.348	370.777	4.1	0.4	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2)(3)(4)		369.195	370.348	370.777	4.1	0.4	0.1
Fuels and utilities		289.596		276.917	0.1	-4.4	
Household energy		243.529	240.501	231.216	-0.5	-5.1	-3.9
Energy services(2)		251.696	250.211	238.298	0.5	-5.3	-4.8
Electricity(2)		303.198	303.614	289.590	0.6	-4.5	-4.6
Utility (piped) gas service(2)		165.557	161.961	153.736	0.4	-7.1	-5.1
Household furnishings and operations		128.072		127.251	-0.4	-0.6	
Apparel		135.571		128.545	0.7	-5.2	
Transportation		199.182		193.663	-3.0	-2.8	
Private transportation		199.107		194.449	-3.5	-2.3	
New and used motor vehicles(5)		104.010		103.497	-2.5	-0.5	
New Vehicles(1)		211.027		201.502	-2.1	-4.5	
Used cars and trucks(1)		317.849		329.714	2.7	3.7	
Motor fuel		246.923	236.420	236.165	-6.2	-4.4	-0.1
Gasoline (all types)		244.108	233.709	233.461	-6.3	-4.4	-0.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular(6)		237.526	226.846	226.587	-6.5	-4.6	-0.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(6)(7)		254.226	247.233	247.460	-4.6	-2.7	0.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(6)		250.688	244.122	243.925	-4.3	-2.7	-0.1
Motor vehicle insurance(1)							
Medical care		675.683		685.157	4.7	1.4	
Recreation(5)		123.545		124.290	1.2	0.6	
Education and communication(5)		164.903		166.789	0.8	1.1	
Tuition, other fees, and child care(1)		1,349.187		1,353.260	1.8	0.3	
Other goods and services		499.710		504.718	4.0	1.0	
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		193.773		191.373	-0.5	-1.2	
Commodities less food and beverages		155.233		152.273	-1.5	-1.9	

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Boston-Cambridge-Newton, Ma.-N.H. (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	May 2019	Jun. 2019	Jul. 2019	Jul. 2018	May 2019	Jun. 2019
Nondurables less food and beverages...		205.434		200.095	-1.6	-2.6	
Durables		107.602		106.733	-1.3	-0.8	
Services.....		359.654		361.682	3.2	0.6	
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter.....		257.238		255.185	0.5	-0.8	
All items less medical care		265.811		265.534	1.8	-0.1	
Commodities less food		159.198		156.154	-1.3	-1.9	
Nondurables		235.617		232.417	-0.3	-1.4	
Nondurables less food.....		207.964		202.668	-1.4	-2.5	
Services less rent of shelter(3)		391.216		389.934	1.6	-0.3	
Services less medical care services.....		337.287		338.885	3.0	0.5	
Energy		243.239	236.987	231.691	-3.1	-4.7	-2.2
All items less energy		288.482		289.518	2.4	0.4	
All items less food and energy		292.670		294.000	2.7	0.5	

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a January 1978=100 base.

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Indexes on a November 1982=100 base.

(4) This index series underwent a change in composition in January 2010. The expenditure class now includes weight from secondary residences, and has been re-titled "Owners' equivalent rent of residences." The item stratum "Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence" excludes secondary residences.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(6) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(7) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.